

REPORT OF EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA IN SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES ON 16 – 19 JUNE 2022

The Eighteenth Session of The United Grand Chapter of Australia (UGCA) was held at Bankstown Sports Event Centre, Sydney, New South Wales from 16 -19 June 2022.

Attendances at the various events were as well as could be expected taking into account that the Covid Pandemic was still around. Of the registrations there were 175 Members, 46 Non-Members and 16 Overseas Members. Of the 175 Members there were 103 from New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory, 20 Queensland, 22 Victoria, 12 Tasmania, 12 South Australia and 6 West Australia. A percentage of registrations by State resulted in NSW & ACT 59%, QLD 11%, VIC 13%, TAS 7%, SA 7% and WA 3%. When tracking the percentage of Members in Chapters in each State the numbers are 29% of the Members who live in NSW & ACT were registered, QLD 4%, VIC 17%, TAS 16%, SA 32% and WA 38%

The numbers attending the various dinners were Grand Representatives Lunch 121, Formal Dinner 146, Friday Lunch 86 and Installation Banquet 204. The Open Installation was attended by 224 including 12 invited dignitaries.

The Formal Opening was held on Thursday, 16 June 2022. Sister Anne Brogden filled the position of the Yellow Ray of Ruth due to Sister Sophia Hill being unable to attend because she had contracted Covid.

Sister Marcia Perry, General Grand Chapter Committee Member and Sister Anita Jo Johnson, Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Oklahoma were presenting in the West for introduction, welcomed and escorted to the East.

Other Australian and Overseas Distinguished Members were introduced and extended Grand Honours or welcomed by acclamation.

Sister Pamela Sangwell Past Most Worthy Grand Matron (PMWGM) read the Eulogy for Sister Margaret Lavaring PMWGM, Sister Elizabeth Watt PMWGM read the Eulogy for Sister Barbara Ashton PMWGM, Brother Sydney Down Past Most Worthy Grand Patron (PMWGP) read the Eulogy for Brother William Cooper PMWGP and Sister Lois Allen PMWGM read memorial details of Worthy Grand Office-bearers who had passed to a Higher Chapter during the Seventeenth Biennium. The Worthy Grand Secretary then read the Roll of other Distinguished and Honorary Members who had been called Home during the Biennium whilst Sister Blanche Watt Most Worthy Grand Matron (MWGM) signed the names of those Members in the United Grand Chapter Bible.

Sister Suzanne Gallichio Past Worthy Matron of Suisun Valley Chapter No. 2, Grand Chapter of California was escorted to the Altar. Brother Paul Smith Most Worthy Grand Patron (MWGP) conferred Honorary Membership on our Distinguished Member, who was presented with her Honorary Member Diploma. Sister Gallichio was entitled to Honorary Membership of The United Grand Chapter of Australia as she was selected to represent Australia in California during the 2007 – 2009 Biennium and since then she has not only represented Australia extensively in the United States of America but has attended all but one Session in Australia since then.

The MWGM was assisted by the Heads of the State Governing Levels in recognising the service given by her chosen Star Points.

Sister Maureen Hillman Past Worthy Grand Matron (PWGM) Immediate Past President and Sister Margaret Smith PWGM Secretary/Treasurer of Present and Past Grand Representatives' Association and Brother Benjamin Sweeney Worthy Grand Fraternal Correspondent introduced the Grand Representatives in attendance and presented the Grand Representatives' Service.

Apologies for Absence were read and received.

The United Grand Chapter proceeded to continue with the business as per the programme for the Business Session on Friday, 17 June 2022.

Minutes of the Seventeenth Biennial Session in Adelaide, South Australia on 6, 7 and 8 June 2019, various Committees and Questions by Correspondence were moved, seconded and carried.

The United Grand Chapter was recessed as per Ritual to resume for the remainder of the Business Session at 9.30am on Friday, 17 June 2022.

Sister Audrey Watson, Worthy Matron of Sunny South Chapter No. 91 called the Business Session to order and UGCA resumed from recess at 9.30am on Friday, 17 June 2022.

The Audit Report, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet were received and Dennis K Wright & Associates, Kurunjang, Victoria will be the Auditor for all United Grand Chapter Accounts for the ensuing term.

Correspondence was received and dealt with.

The Recommendations from the Supplies, Finance and General Committee Meetings were received, moved, seconded and carried:

- ♦ The minimum amount of \$200 was transferred to the Supplies Refurbishment Account
- ♦ The Worthy Grand Supplies Officer Sister Faye Thornton, Worthy Grand Treasurer Sister Margaret Down and Sister Sandra Davis PMWGM are to look at items on the Website Shop and work out a reasonable discounted price for them to be sold off.
- ♦ Supplies Kits are to be made up for New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria and distributed around.
- ♦ The cost of an Efpos Square Terminal was ratified and was used at the Session to enable Members to purchase items by debit or credit card.
- ♦ Consideration was given to printing costs and whether the printing should be outsourced. The Worthy Grand Supplies Officer is to have a good look at the costing for printing and provide a report to the 2023 Mid Term Session.
- ♦ Chapters are to be provided with copies of the new Insurance Policies that will issue for 2022 – 2023 and be instructed to keep these insurance documents on file for future reference.
- ♦ It was agreed that \$500 benevolence be paid to Member No. 26879.
- ♦ The Session registration fee for Members will remain at \$50.
- ♦ The registration fee for Non-members attending a Session will be increased to \$15.
- ♦ The donation to the MWGM and MWGP Charity, Cure Cancer, was \$7,300.
- ♦ Donations of \$5,500 had been made from the National Disaster Fund.
- ♦ It was agreed that Victoria organise a fund raising event to assist the 2024 Queensland Steering Committee.
- ♦ It was suggested that the venue for the 2024 Biennial Session be in Cairns, Queensland provided the Worthy Grand Sessions Co-ordinator was happy with the venue, Cairns Colonial Club Resort, and it was agreed that the Worthy Grand Sessions Co-ordinator and Worthy Grand Treasurer would travel to Cairns to view the venue.

Since the Session the Worthy Grand Sessions Co-ordinator and Worthy Grand Treasurer have travelled to Cairns and reported to the Finance Committee who had a meeting in Melbourne on 23 July 2022 when it was agreed that the Cairns Colonial Club Resort be booked for the 2024 Session and the deposit of \$6,000 be paid as the deadline for that was 31 August 2022.

- ♦ It was agreed that a suitable laptop and A3 printer be purchased for the use of the person taking on the position of Worthy Grand Secretary.
- ♦ All enquiries to the Worthy Grand Secretary must be in writing.
- ♦ It was agreed that the responsibility of the Facebook Page be transferred to the Grand Chapter of NSW & ACT and that instructions be issued that the name be retained and that it be run in accordance with the Social Media Policy and that Brother Raymond McIntosh PWGP would attend the United Grand Committee Meetings as an elected member.
- ♦ It was agreed that UGCA pay the Grand Chapter of NSW & ACT \$500 for each of Tamar, Tasman, Sunny South and Perth Chapters to have the digital promotional material and refund Hobart Chapter \$500 as they had already paid for the promotional material, so that all States would have access to the material.
- ♦ The following matters were brought to the UGCA from a Chapter
 - (a) relating to Star Points standing in front of their chairs if unable to step to the side of the chair, and
 - (b) to avoid crowding by the Conductress, Candidate and Associate Conductress during the Initiation Ceremony, the Associate Conductress be allowed to return to her Station to prompt,and it was agreed that these are domestic matters to be dealt with by the Chapter itself.

- ◆ Advice had been sought from a District Grand Committee with regard to a WDPG attending a Chapter outwith his District and it was agreed that the matter was a breach of the Constitution and Laws and should be reported as a breach on the correct documentation 'Report a Breach of a UGCA Law' and duly submitted to the Worthy Grand Secretary.
- ◆ Advice had been received that eight Chapters that came under the jurisdiction of the South Brisbane District Grand Committee had agreed to be Outwith Chapters of the Grand Chapter of Queensland when the District Grand Committee proceeded to dormancy.
- ◆ The Grand Chapter of Victoria reported to UGCA that there were now only four Chapters in the State and requested permission to continue as a Grand Chapter with the prospect of a new Chapter being formed in Wodonga. It was agreed that the Grand Chapter of Victoria be given a Dispensation for two years with the Grand Chapter to report in writing to the Worthy Grand Secretary as to their progress by Mid Term Session 2023 and a final report being provided in two years time, June 2024, when the United Grand Committee will review the matter and make a further decision.
- ◆ It was agreed that correspondence at Chapter meetings be cut down so long as all relevant details are read out.
- ◆ Approval was given to a Tasmanian Chapter for it not to have an Election Meeting or Installation Meeting this year and current Office-bearers be allowed to continue in their same positions for another year because of unforeseen circumstances (building development at their normal venue and flooding at their replacement venue). The Chapter had only been able to have eight Regular Meetings during the year. This is not to be considered as a precedent.
- ◆ A Committee of three to be formed to look at the Masonic fraternity seating at Open Installations as to who should be seated in the East and who should be in the near East.
- ◆ There was discussion regarding the correct procedure for carrying out the Sign of Adah and it was decided that it should be done in accordance with the Guide and Procedures issued by UGCA to Grand Chapters, District Grand Committees and Chapters which is :
 - ✦ *Members must first relinquish the Sign of Salutation by dropping their hands to their side before starting any other Signs. Each Sign is completed when the hands are returned to the side, and from this position Members can resume the Sign of Salutation.*
 - ✦ *It is important to do all signs slowly so their significance can be demonstrated.*
 - ✦ *In all signs, allowance must be made for individual Member's physical differences and abilities.*
 - ✦ *Blue: The movements should be synchronised with the words; up with "raising", down with "high", up with "eyes", down with "twice", up with "raising" and over the head with "over the head".*

Fees: (See enclosed List of Fees)

- (a) The Statutory Fee which is indicated on Chapter Installation Reports will be increased to \$25.00.
- (b) PDF copy of the Constitution & Laws will be available for \$5.00
An updated copy of the Constitution & Laws will be \$5.00.
This has to be applied for through Chapter Secretary.

Notices of Motion were dealt with and a separate report will be furnished giving details of motions which were passed.

Reports as printed were received and adopted.

Worthy Grand Office-bearers, Administrative Office-bearers and their Assistants and Members of the United Grand Committee were ratified.

Advancing Worthy Grand Office-bearers

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| Most Worthy Grand Matron | Sister Robyn Reily (NSW & ACT) |
| Most Worthy Grand Patron | Brother Jonathan Nantes (QLD) |
| Worthy Grand Associate Matron | Sister Barbara Hartman (QLD) |
| Worthy Grand Associate Patron | Brother Alan Bover (VIC) |
| Worthy Grand Conductress | Sister Robyn Thomas (TAS) |
| Worthy Grand Associate Conductress | Sister Christine Wagener (VIC) |
| Worthy Grand Senior Chaplain | Brother Alan Paterson (NSW & ACT) |
| Worthy Grand Junior Chaplain | Brother Graham Deacon (TAS) |
| Worthy Grand Marshal | Sister Shirley Gallaway (WA) |

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| Worthy Grand Warder | Sister Chandy Bond (SA) |
| Worthy Grand Sentinel | Brother Benjamin Sweeney (NSW & ACT representing SA) |
| Worthy Grand Fraternal Correspondent | Brother Kenneth Paul (WA) |

Administrative Worthy Grand Office-bearers

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| Worthy Grand Secretary | Sister Beth Littler (QLD) |
| Worthy Grand Treasurer | Sister Margaret Down (NSW & ACT) |
| Worthy Grand Organist | Sister Gillian Mason (QLD) |
| Worthy Grand Supplies Officer | Sister Faye Thornton (VIC) |
| Worthy Grand Sessions Co-ordinator | Sister Evelyn Hood PMWGM (VIC) |

Assistants to Administrative Worthy Grand Office-bearers

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| Assistant to Worthy Grand Treasurer | Sister Jennifer Fawns (NSW & ACT) |
| Assistant to Worthy Grand Organist | Sister Pamela Turner (NSW & ACT) |

United Grand Chapter Committee

The Members of South Australia were required to elect another Member to the United Grand Committee as their second elected member is now a Worthy Grand Office-bearer.

Since the Session one elected Member to the United Grand Committee for Tasmania has sadly passed to a Higher Chapter and the Members in Tasmania are required to elect a replacement Member.

The election in South Australia has taken place and the Members of the United Grand Committee are:

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| Sister Del Yeates and Brother Raymond McIntosh | NSW & ACT |
| Sister Clare Parry and Brother Richard Kennedy | QLD |
| Sister Roberta Aimer and Brother Ronald Aimer | VIC |
| Brother Barrie Bell | TAS |
| Sisters Gail Reed and Susan Cameron | SA |
| Sisters Anne Brogden and Isabell Paul | WA |

A collection for the United Grand Chapter General Fund amounted to \$283.35.

Sister Robyn Reily was asked to name her Worthy Grand Star Points for the ensuing term. They are:

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| Worthy Grand Adah | Sister Betty Griffiths (NSW & ACT) |
| Worthy Grand Ruth | Sister Joan Currie (QLD) |
| Worthy Grand Esther | Sister Robyn Whitelaw (VIC) |
| Worthy Grand Martha | Sister Rita Humber (SA) |
| Worthy Grand Electa | Sister Felecity Manderson (QLD) |

Sister Pamela Sangwell and Brother Kevin Chambers were ratified as the Worthy District Grand Matron and Worthy District Grand Patron of the Tasmania District Grand Committee for 2022 - 2024.

The Worthy Grand Star Points presented a Service and gifts to the MWGM and MWGP who then presented their retiring speeches.

The MWGM presented the Certificates of Service to the retiring Worthy Grand Office-bearers and thanked them for their service to the Order.

The United Grand Chapter was recessed as per Ritual to resume for the Open Installation at 1.30pm on Saturday, 18 June 2022.

Sister Barbara Bugg, Worthy Matron of Holroyd Chapter No. 20 called the meeting to order at 1.30pm for the Open Installation of UGCA Worthy Grand Office-bearers. Sister Barbara Bugg then handed the Gavel to Brother Sydney Down PMWGP who proceeded to invite Distinguished Guests into the United Grand Chapter Room. Honoured Lady Sylvia Lowe Grand Royal Matron and Sir Knight Donald Cobcroft Past Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of New South Wales, Order of the Amaranth; Sis John of Normandy The Grand Preceptor of the Province of Australia North, The Commemorative Order of St Thomas of Acon; Right Worshipful Brother Thomas Pfeifle Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Royal Order of Scotland; Most Excellent Companion Robert Mitchell Drake First Grand Principal and Grand Master United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory were welcomed in the West and escorted to the Extended East. Most Worshipful Brother Lesley Norman Hicks Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory and those

accompanying him were welcomed in the West. The Grand Director of Ceremonies Right Worshipful Brother Arnel Landicho was invited to escort Most Worshipful Brother Lesley Norman Hicks to their seats in the East and the remaining Members of the Grand Lodge delegation took their seats in the Extended East.

Brother Sydney Down PMWGP then commenced with the presentation of the Flag Service. Past Most Worthy Grand Matrons and Patrons and Worthy Grand Office-bearers seated in the United Grand Chapter Room were acknowledged and then the balance of the Worthy Grand Office-bearers entered with their respective State Flags. This was an impressive Flag Service, culminating with Sister Blanche Watt MWGM and Brother Paul Smith MWGP entering the United Grand Chapter Room accompanied by the Worthy Grand Marshal and under the OES Banner.

After the Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by everyone the MWGM and MWGP were escorted to the East where Brother Sydney Down PMWGP returned the Gavel to Sister Barbara Bugg who in turn presented the Gavel to the MWGM to continue with the business of the meeting.

The MWGM thanked Sister Barbara Bugg for calling the meeting to order and congratulated Brother Sydney Down PMWGP on the presentation of the Flag Service, then continued by welcoming the Distinguished Guests and other visitors.

Apologies for absence were read.

Ms Nikki Kinloch, Chief Executive Officer of Cure Cancer was escorted to the East. The MWGM presented a cheque for \$7,300 to Ms Kinloch who expressed her thanks and spoke on how the funds would be applied to assist in the operation of Cure Cancer.

Sister Evelyn Hood PMWGM, Worthy Grand Sessions Co-ordinator presented the Charity Report which indicated that reported charity donations for the period 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2021 totalled \$2,616,998.

The charity chosen by Sister Robyn Reily and Brother Jonathan Nantes for the ensuing term is Beyond Blue.

The Installation Ceremony by the Worthy Grand Installing Officer Sister Blanche Watt and Members of the Installing Board was carried out with grace and dignity. The newly installed MWGM Sister Robyn Reily and MWGP Brother Jonathan Nantes presented their acceptance speeches and were then escorted to the Altar to sign the United Grand Chapter Bible. The IPMWGM and IPMWGP were invested with their regalia and presented with their PMWGM and PMWGP Jewels and Certificates.

The installation of the Worthy District Grand Matron Sister Pamela Sangwell and Worthy District Grand Patron Brother Kevin Chambers of the Tasmania District Grand Committee, Administrative Worthy Grand Office-bearers and Assistants to Worthy Grand Office-bearers was carried out.

The MWGM handed the Gavel to the IPMWGM who requested the Worthy Grand Marshal to escort retiring Worthy Grand Office-bearers Sister Elizabeth Taylor and Sister Phyllis Dehn to the East when she announced that UGCA had conferred Emeritus status on both Sisters and presented them with their badges of office.

Responses were delivered by Sister Marilyn Auld WGM (NSW & ACT) Brother Spencer Swann WGP (QLD), Sister Elizabeth Watt PMWGM and Most Worshipful Brother Lesley Norman Hicks.

A collection for the United Grand Chapter Benevolent / Distress Fund amounted to \$389.

There being no further business the Eighteenth Biennial Session of UGCA was closed and Brother Jonathan Nantes MWGP called for all Members to assemble in Cairns, Queensland in June 2024 for the Nineteenth Biennial Session of UGCA.

A well-attended Thanksgiving Service was held in the Georges / Birdwood Room of the Bankstown Sports Event Centre and conducted by Mr Graham Parker on the Sunday morning, 19 June 2022 and was followed by a Morning Tea provided by the 2022 NSW & ACT Steering Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive, which took place on Monday, 12 June 2022 to discuss whether emblems were on pedestals in the United Grand Chapter Room, it was agreed UGCA does not have emblems on pedestals at any time.

A Demonstration of Ritualistic Work was held on Wednesday 15 June 2022 when the Opening and Closing of the Bible; Signs; Knocks; and Grand Honours were demonstrated by Worthy Grand Office-bearers with the assistance of Sister Elizabeth Watt PMWGM.

At the United Grand Committee Meeting on Sunday, 19 June 2022 the following Members were elected / appointed to the various Committees for 2022 - 2024.

Bye-Laws

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| Sister Del Yeates | NSW & ACT |
| Sister Clare Parry | QLD |
| Brother Ronald Aimer | VIC |
| Brother Graham Deacon | TAS |
| Brother Michael Struthers PMWGP | SA |
| Sister Isobell Paul | WA |

Petitions

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| Sister Lois Allen PMWGM | NSW & ACT |
| Sister Joan Currie | QLD |
| Sister Roberta Aimer | VIC |
| Sister Robyn Thomas | TAS |
| Sister Rita Humber | SA |
| Brother Kenneth Paul | WA |

Finance

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| Sister Jennifer Fawns | NSW & ACT |
| Brother Richard Kennedy | QLD |
| Sister Christine Wagener | VIC |
| Brother Allan Sangwell PMWGP | TAS |
| Sister Elizabeth Watt PMWGM | SA |
| Sister Anne Brogden | WA |

Supplies

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| Sister Betty Griffiths | NSW & ACT |
| Brother Felecity Manderson | QLD |
| Sister Evelyn Hood PMWGM | VIC |
| Sister Pamela Sangwell PMWGM | TAS |
| Sister Gail Reed | SA |
| Sister Shirley Gallaway | WA |

Masonic Fraternity Seating at Open Installations Committee

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| Brother Allan Sangwell PMWGP | TAS |
| Brother Paul Smith IPMWGP | NSW & ACT representing WA |
| Brother Jonathan Nantes | QLD |

Notice of Motion Panel

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| Brother Sydney Down PMWGM | NSW & ACT |
| Brother Paul Smith IPMWGP | NSW & ACT representing WA |
| Sister Barbara Hartman | QLD |

Appointed as Inspection of Records Committee

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| Sister Blanche Watt IPMWGM | SA |
| Sister Helen McLaughlan PMWGM | WA |
| Sister Sandra Davis PMWGM | VIC |
| Sister Pamela Sangwell PMWGM | TAS |
| Sister Jennifer Fawns | NSW & ACT |
| Sister Moya Nantes | QLD |
| Sister Beth Littler | QLD |
| Brother Paul Smith IPMWGP | NSW & ACT representing WA |
| Brother Richard Kennedy | QLD |

The Strategic Working Party

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| Co-ordinator Brother Sydney Down PMWGP | Presiding | |
| MWGM Sister Robyn Reily | Presiding | |
| MWGP Brother Jonathan Nantes | | |
| IPMWGM Sister Blanche Watt | | |
| IPMWGP Brother Paul Smith | | |
| WGAM Sister Barbara Hartman | Elected ongoing | |
| WGAP Brother Alan Bover | | |
| WG Secretary Sister Beth Littler | Ongoing | |
| WG Treasurer Sister Margaret Down | Elected ongoing | |

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| Emeritus WG Secretary Sister Lorraine Ellison | Elected ongoing | |
| Sister Pamela Sangwell PMWGM | Elected ongoing | |
| Brother Sydney Down PMWGP | Elected ongoing | Co-ordinator |
| Sister Faye Thornton | Elected ongoing | |
| Sister Jennifer Fawns Assistant to WG Treasurer | Elected ongoing | |
| Brother Richard Kennedy (QLD) | Elected June 2019 | |
| Brother Stuart Lang PMWGP (VIC) | Elected June 2019 | |
| Sister Elizabeth Watt PMWGM (SA) | Elected June 2021 | |
| Sister Angela Sweeney | Seconded | Webmaster |
| Brother Raymond McIntosh | Seconded | Facebook Administrator |

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Taylor

ELIZABETH TAYLOR
Worthy Grand Secretary Emeritus
On behalf of Beth Littler
Worthy Grand Secretary